



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

4.9

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,307	03/12/2004	Jae-Hyun Kim	.8054-50 (LW9007US/HJ)	8101

22150 7590 06/20/2007
F. CHAU & ASSOCIATES, LLC
130 WOODBURY ROAD
WOODBURY, NY 11797

EXAMINER

CHIEN, LUCY P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2871

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

06/20/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/799,307

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Examiner

Lucy P. Chien

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-9 and 12-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-7 and 21-25 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8,9,12-17,19,20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1,5-9,12-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

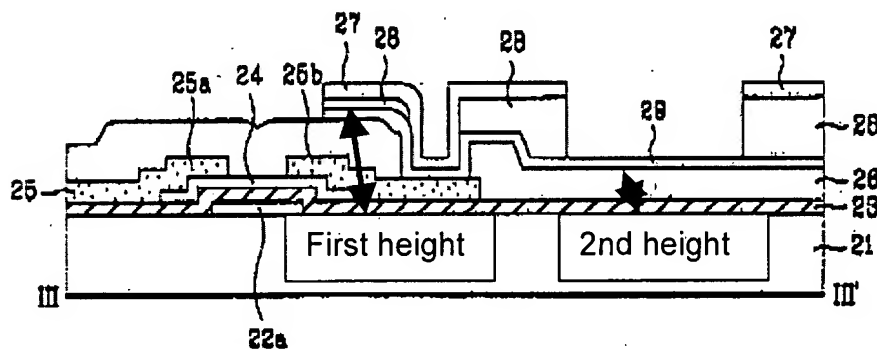
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim et al (US 6720580).

Kim et al discloses (Fig. 3b) a switching device (22a) formed in a pixel area that is defined by a gate line (22a) and a source line disposed on the first substrate, the gate line extended in a first direction and arranged in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction, the Source line extended in the second direction and arranged in the first direction (shown in Fig. 3a); a pixel electrode (29) connected to a drain electrode (25b) of the switching device; and a reflecting plate (27) disposed on the pixel electrode (29) so as to define a reflecting area from which the natural light is reflected and a transmitting area through which the artificial light is transmitted, wherein the pixel electrode (29) has a first height at the reflecting area (shown below) and a

Art Unit: 2871

second height at the transmitting area, wherein the first height is greater than the second height with respect to the first substrate (21), and wherein the reflecting plate (27) has a first edge extended to the transmitting area an insulating layer (26) formed on the switching device and the first substrate with a first contact hole through which the drain electrode (25b) is partially exposed; and an organic insulating layer (28)(Column 6, row 64) formed on the reflecting area with a second contact hole corresponding to the first hole so as to expose the drain electrode (25b).

FIG. 3B

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al (US 6720580) in view of Baek et al (US 20020036730).

Kim et al does not disclose that the color filters corresponding to the reflecting regions have a larger thickness than the transmissive region color filter and wherein the pixel electrode has a first height at the reflecting area and a second height at the transmitting area wherein the first height is greater than the second height with respect to the substrate

Baek et al discloses (Page 3, [0037]) the color filter layer in the transmitting portion is twice as large as the thickness of the color filter in the reflective portion to improve the color purity of the light passing through the color filter in the transmissive region. (Page 2, [0014], [0015]) therefore the pixel electrode has a first height (d3) at the reflecting area and a second height (d4) at the transmitting area wherein the first height is greater than the second height with respect to the substrate.

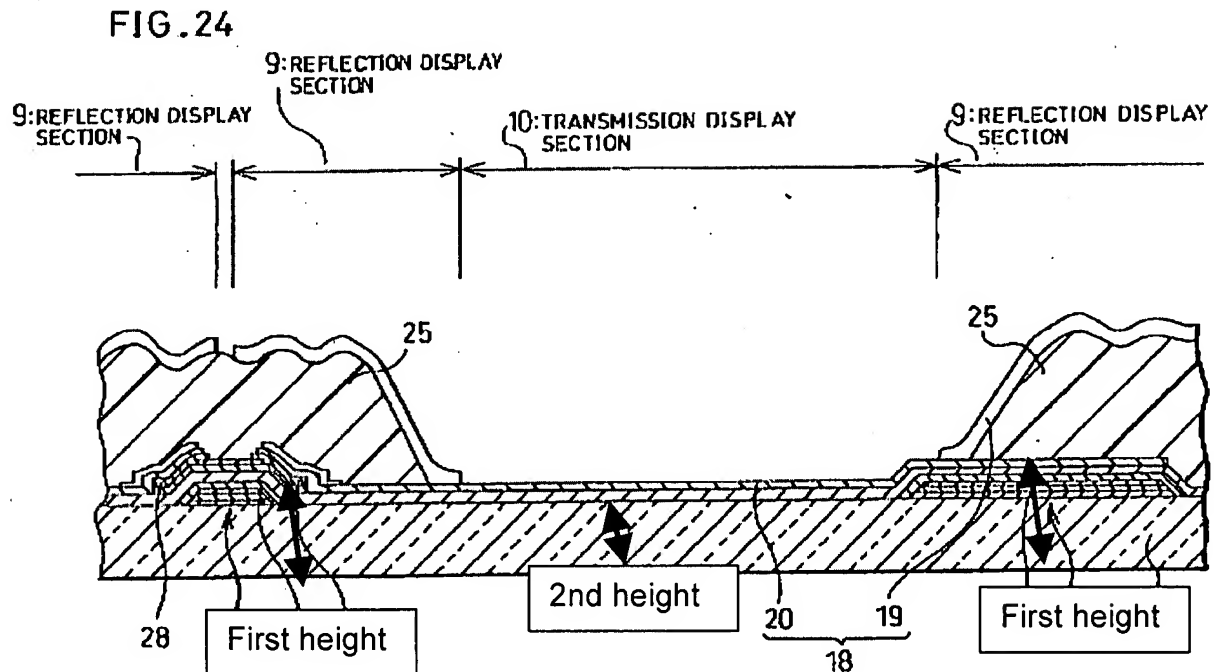
It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Kim et al to include Baek et al's color filter thickness to improve the color purity of the light passing through the color filter in the transmissive region. (Baek et al, Page 2, [0014], [0015])

Art Unit: 2871

Claim 8,9,12,14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al (US 20030067570) in view of Baek et al (US 20020036730).

Regarding Claim 8,

Okamoto et al discloses (Fig. 24) a lower substrate having a switching device (21), a pixel electrode (20) connected to a drain electrode (22) of the switching device, and a reflecting plate (19) formed on the pixel electrode (20) with a transmission window (10) so as to define the reflecting area (9) from which a natural light is reflected and the transmitting area through which an artificial light is transmitted, wherein the pixel electrode (20) has a first height at the reflecting area and a second height at the transmitting area, wherein the first height is greater than the second height with respect to the lower substrate and the reflecting plate has an edge partially extended o the transmitting area; and a liquid crystal interposed between the upper and lower substrates, wherein the transmission window is defined by at least three sides of the reflecting plate, (as shown in Fig. 23a) and a portion of the first side of the three sides and a portion of a second side adjacent to the first side of the three sides are extended to be connected with the pixel electrode.



Okamoto et al does not disclose that the color filters corresponding to the reflecting regions have a larger thickness than the transmissive region color filter and wherein the pixel electrode has a first height at the reflecting area and a second height at the transmitting area wherein the first height is greater than the second height with respect to the substrate

Baek et al discloses (Page 3, [0037]) the color filter layer in the transmitting portion is twice as large as the thickness of the color filter in the reflective portion to improve the color purity of the light passing through the color filter in the transmissive region. (Page 2, [0014], [0015]) therefore the pixel electrode has a first height (d3) at the reflecting area and a second height (d4) at the transmitting area wherein the first height is greater than the second height with respect to the substrate.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Okamoto et al to include Baek et al's color filter thickness to improve the color purity of the light passing through the color filter in the transmissive region. (Baek et al, Page 2, [0014], [0015])

Regarding Claim 9,

In addition to Okamoto et al and Baek et al as disclosed above, Baek et al discloses (Page 3, [0037]) the color filter layer in the transmitting portion (fourth thickness as claimed in claim 9) is twice as large as the thickness of the color filter in the reflective portion (third thickness claimed in claim 9) to improve the color purity of the light passing through the color filter in the transmissive region. (Page 2, [0014], [0015]).

Regarding Claim 12,

In addition to Okamoto et al and Baek et al as disclosed above, Okamoto et al discloses wherein the lower substrate further comprises a rubbed alignment layer formed on the reflecting plate so as to align the liquid crystal layer and a connection shape between the reflecting plate and the pixel electrode depends upon a rubbing direction of the rubbed alignment layer (Fig. 5).

Regarding Claim 14,

In addition to Okamoto et al and Baek et al as disclosed above, Okamoto et al discloses the lower substrate having a first alignment layer rubbed in a first direction and a second alignment layer rubbed in a second direction opposite to the first direction so the liquid crystal layer would be in a stable state.(Fig. 5)

Regarding Claim 15.

In addition to Okamoto et al and Baek et al as disclosed above, Okamoto et al discloses in Figure 23(a) the width of the pixel electrode in the first direction is smaller than the width of the pixel area in the first direction.

Regarding Claim 16.

In addition to Okamoto et al and Baek et al as disclosed above, Okamoto et al further discloses in Figure 23(a) the width of the pixel electrode in the first direction and width of the pixel electrode in the second direction are smaller than a width of the pixel area in the first direction and a width of the pixel area in the second direction.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al (US 6720580) and of Baek et al (US 20020036730) in view of Auman et al (US 5856432).

Kim et al and Baek et al do not disclose either lower (first) or upper (second) substrate further comprising of a rubbed alignment layer.

Auman et al discloses (Column 2, Row 52-59) the rubbing of the alignment layer induces the alignment of the liquid crystal.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Kim et al and Baek et al to include the teachings of Auman et al's rubbed alignment layer to induce the alignment of the liquid crystal.

(Auman et al, Column 2, Row 52-59)

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Okamoto et al (US 20030067570) and of Baek et al (US 20020036730) in view of Ha et al (US 6704081).

Okamoto et al and Baek et al do not disclose positioning of the reflecting plate and pixel electrode comprised of L-shapes.

Ha et al discloses in Figure 12 the pixel electrode (230) electrically connected to a reflecting plate (226) comprises an L-shaped when the rubbing direction is -45 degrees. (Column 6 Row 66 and Column 7, Row 1-7) teaches the location of the reflector on the sides of the transmission region is determined by the alignment direction by the rubbing direction. Therefore, it is obvious to have the rubbing direction in the desired 10,11,12, and 1 o'clock to make the L-shape of the area where reflecting plate is connected to the pixel electrode.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention modify Okamoto et al and Baek et al's color filter thickness to include Ha's rubbing direction to determine the location of the reflector on the side of the transmission area. (Column 6 Row 66 and Column 7, Row 1-7)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 1,5-7,21-25 are allowed.

Regarding Claim 1, the amended claim which feature the allowable subject matter: "the pixel electrode formed on the insulating layer and connected to the drain electrode through the contact hole being and the first edge extended to the transmitting area is connected to the pixel electrode exposed through the transmitting area and where the second edge of the reflecting are adjacent to the transmitting are is removed toward the direction of the first edges" was not found in the prior art.

Claim 18 is being objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding Claim 18:

Park et al does not disclose the organic insulating layer formed on the reflecting area with a second contact hole corresponding to the first contact hole so to expose the drain electrode.

Claim 21-25 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art does not disclose nor does not reasonably a pixel electrode partially formed on the insulating layer, and connected to the drain electrode through the contact hole; an organic insulating layer formed on the insulating layer and the pixel electrode in the reflecting area to expose the pixel electrode corresponding to the transmitting area; an inter-insulating layer formed on the organic layer corresponding to the reflecting area; and a reflecting plate disposed on the inter-insulating layer so as to define the reflecting area and the transmitting area, the reflecting plate having a first edge extended to the transmitting area to connect the reflecting plate to the pixel electrode.

Claims 22-25 are dependent on Claim 21 and are therefore are allowable.

It is the examiners opinion that these limitations show novelty over the prior art and are therefore allowable.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lucy P. Chien whose telephone number is 571-272-8579. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571)272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2871

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Lucy P Chien
Examiner
Art Unit 2871


ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER